

V.—ANATOMICAL STUDIES ON THE BRAINS OF CRIMINALS.

ANATOMISCHE STUDIEN AN VERBRECHER-GEHIRNEN, FÜR ANTHROPOLOGEN, MEDICINER, JURISTEN UND PSYCHOLOGEN BEARBEITET. Von Moriz Benedikt. Mit 12 Tafeln und 8 Holzschnitten. Wien, 1879. Wilhelm Braumüller, K. K. Hof, und Universität Buchhändler. (*Anatomical studies of criminals' brains for anthropological, medical, judicial and psychological research and purposes.* By Moriz Benedikt. With 12 engravings and 8 woodcuts.)

This work is dedicated to a number of physicians and others, mainly Hungarian and Croatian. Assistance is acknowledged from many persons, such as ministers of justice and prison inspectors, for material furnished. This is noticeable as indicative of inter-Carpathian Adriatic progress against superstitious prejudice, which hitherto has withheld such material from students.

The introduction may be condensed as follows: That there is a correspondence in anatomical plan and physiological development of the brains of men as well as in their thoughts, feelings, volition and capabilities, is a discovery as old as Erasistratus, who first gave it utterance, at a time, too, when but crude judgments could consider it. The indifferent progress of exact knowledge of brain structure and functions was due to the want of any wide-spread recognition of these analogies, a belief in which was latent for more than 100 years among the learned classes before their demonstration.

The philosophies of Blumenbach and Gall appeared with the general advance of science. They paved the way to more accurate knowledge, and their stores of thought were not enough appreciated. A new impulse was then given to anatomical brain studies, which previously had received very little attention. Although Gall's incitements to studies in this new field were great and successful, so many were the mistakes in details that he made, that opposition hailed these as evidences of the entire falsity of his doctrine, and antitheses were as numerous as the works of adherents. Since then the literati of all lands have forwarded our knowledge of the skull and brain. Notwithstanding the direct psychological tendencies of these revelations, there has been no other than argumentative persecution raised against the study of the subject.

In France, Leuret, Gratiolet and Broca, in Germany, Huschke, Virchow and Bischoff, in England, Owen, Huxley and their schools, and in Italy, Lombroso, are recalled to mind as most prominent in these researches and most useful to the author in his present work.

instrument with which to search for the location of faults, for the starting point of abnormalities cannot be found by unassisted ocular inspection.

3. Before any psychic connection can be traced to peculiarities of brain structure, very much more than a mere outline of the supposed character of the individual must accompany the investigator's record. Heredity, disease, accidents, associations, incentives and, what is seldom if ever known, the inner life of the man, have their share of influence.

The bare record of which Benedikt speaks as pertaining to each case, so far from having no significance might become the most valuable part, if it only went far enough, *i. e.*, microscopically. Had we several thousand such bare records made by conscientious, able students, we might possibly begin to tabulate the most astounding results.

Notwithstanding the negative outcome of such work thus far, as the author says, "it will live" and help to guide other researches, and however labyrinthine an anatomico-psychological study may appear to be, when we compare it with other sciences and the advances they have made toward perfection against opposition of the fiercest kind, we may take encouragement, and such memoirs as the one before us are at least suggestive, even though they do not add to our stores of positive knowledge.

S. V. C.

SHORTER NOTICES.

- I. **ATLAS OF SKIN DISEASES.** By Louis A. Duhring, M. D. Part VI. Philadelphia, 1879. J. B. Lippincott & Co. Chicago, Jansen, McClurg & Co.
- II. **A CLINICAL TREATISE ON THE DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.** By M. Rosenthal. (With a preface by Prof. Charecot.) Translated from the author's revised and enlarged edition, by L. Putzel, M. D. New York, Wm. Wood & Co., 1879; 555 pages. Chicago, Jansen, McClurg & Co.
- III. **LECTURES ON ELECTRICITY IN ITS RELATIONS TO MEDICINE AND SURGERY.** By A. D. Rockwell, A. M., M. D. New York, Wm. Wood & Co., 1879. Chicago, W. T. Keener.
- IV. **FIRST LINES IN THERAPEUTICS, as Based on the Modes and the Processes of Healing, as Occurring Spontaneously in Disease, and on the Modes and Processes of Dying, as resulting naturally from disease. In a series of lectures.** By Alex. Harvey, M. A., M. D. (Edin.) New York, 1879, D. Appleton & Co. Chicago, Jansen, McClurg & Co.